

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-25, 27-30, 32-37, and 39-56 are pending; Claims 1, 9, 10, 20, 21, 24, 35, and 41 are amended; Claims 5, 16, 26, 31, and 38 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 42-56 are newly added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Figures 17 and 18 were objected to; Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34-37, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Aoki (JP2000-356936); Claims 12 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki in view of the Oki Technical Review (hereafter Oki); and Claims 5, 8-10, 16, 19-21, 26, 28, 31, 33, 38, 40, and 41 were indicated as allowable.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 5, 8-10, 16, 19-21, 26, 28, 31, 33, 38, 40, and 41 are allowable. Newly added Claims 42-56 reflect the subject matter of these claims in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by Claims 42-56 and that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicant thanks Examiner Gleitz and Supervisory Examiner Grimley for the interview granted Applicant's representative on August 30, 2005. During the interview, the pending claims were discussed with regard to Aoki.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-15, 17, 18, 22-25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34-37, and 39, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1, as amended herewith, recites that the control unit includes a frequency-correcting unit that performs correction of only a frequency component that is

fluctuating of low frequency that is smaller than a predetermined frequency that is developed due to a change in a speed of the belt as a result of an unevenness of a thickness of the belt. Independent Claims 24 and 35 recite analogous features.

As discussed during the interview, Aoki does not disclose or suggest that the frequency of fluctuation is the result of an unevenness in a thickness of the belt. For example, Aoki describes that the frequency emphasis filter 12 emphasizes only the eccentric frequency component of a driving roller 1 among belt rate error signals.¹

Because Oki is not relied upon to provide the features identified as deficient within Aoki, Oki is not substantively addressed herewith.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-15, 17, 18, 22-25, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34-37, and 39 be withdrawn.

With regard to the objection to Figures 17 and 18, these figures have been amended by the present amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

¹ Aoki translation, paragraph [0050].

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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